

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL AND UTILITY SERVICE BOARD OF THE
CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
MARCH 4, 2013**

A joint special meeting of the Common Council and Utility Service Board of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Monday, March 4, 2013, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. President pro tempore Tom Schmidt called the joint Common Council and Utility Service Board meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

COMMON COUNCIL ROLL CALL:

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm called the roll

Mayor Terry Seitz	Absent
Council members:	
Gregory Schnarr	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Absent
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Six of the seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

UTILITY SERVICE BOARD ROLL CALL:

Secretary Doug Schulte called the roll

Wayne Schuetter – Chairman	Present
Rick Stradtner – Vice Chairman	Present
Doug Schulte – Secretary	Present
Dave Hurst – Water Commissioner	Present
Alex Emmons – Wastewater Commissioner	Present
Keith Masterson – Gas Commissioner	Present
Ken Sendelweck – Electric Commissioner	Absent

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael Oeding - Gas and Water Manager
Jerry Schitter – Electric Distribution Manager
Bud Hauersperger – General Manager of Utilities
Ashley Kiefer – Office Manager
Renee Kabrick – City Attorney

Pledge. President pro tempore Thomas Schmidt then invited those in attendance to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose. President pro tempore Thomas Schmidt said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the funding of the 3rd Avenue Water Line Replacement project. President pro tempore Schmidt then turned the meeting over to Utility Service Board Chairman Wayne Schuetter.

Chairman Schuetter explained that last fall the Utility Service Board decided to proceed with the 3rd Avenue Water Line Replacement project. Approximately 6,000 feet of the water line on 3rd Avenue needs to be replaced. Considering that the cost of the project was \$1.1 million, Lisa Gehlhausen, with Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, was contacted concerning an EDA grant. As part of the grant process, the paving part of the project could also be added into the grant application. The grant was submitted on December 14, 2012. The total cost for the entire project is approximately \$1.6 million. The EDA grant will cover half of the projects cost minus engineering fees, if awarded.

On January 28, 2013 the City received a carry forward letter from EDA which explained that no grant money was being awarded at this time due to Congress not passing a budget. On February 21, 2013, the City decided to drop the grant and move forward with the project due to the paving timeline of the project. On February 26th, Lisa Gehlhausen received a call from EDA concerning the grant withdraw. EDA was disappointed that the City decided to withdraw from the grant and wanted to work something out with the City. Gehlhausen, along with Attorney Kabrick, explained to EDA the timeline concerns regarding the project. At this time, EDA stated that the City may be able to receive an early start letter that would allow the City to start the project before receiving the award documents for the grant.

Schuetter reminded the Boards that the wages for the project were set at a wage determination hearing, bid packets have been picked up and the notice has been in the newspaper. Also, without the grant money the project could start as early as April.

Gehlhausen explained that EDA is operating on a Continuing Resolution until the end of March. EDA does not know what will happen at the end of March. They are hoping that in early April they will get a Continuing Resolution that will fund the Economic Development Administration, which will include operating funds and program funds. Only four projects received carry forward letters from EDA and Jasper was one of them.

Gehlhausen explained that on April 10th the Investment Review Committee, which is a part of EDA, will meet. They will decide what the budget is and how it will affect the four projects that received the carry forward letters. Following the April 10th meeting, EDA could issue the City of Jasper a non-binding commitment letter, which ensures that EDA is committed to the project but the grant agreement is not final, or the City could receive another carry forward letter. If the City receives a carry forward letter at this time, we will not hear anything else until mid-June. EDA feels the grant agreement should be received by late June or early July, but no later than September 30th, which is EDA's fiscal year end. If the City has to wait until the end of September the water line part of the project may be completed in 2013 but the repaving portion would have to wait until spring of 2014.

Board members stated that the project would have to be rebid, but if the City receives the full grant amount the money would be worth the time and effort. Raymie Eckerle, Street Commissioner, suggested that the Boards should continue with the grant process. The Street Department can patch the bad areas over the summer until the new water line is in. The worst case scenario, if the 2013/2014 winter is bad, the road will deteriorate more, which may cost more in paving. The Street Department will make it work, whatever the Boards decide.

Gehlhausen informed the Boards that if they do decide to move forward with the grant some things will have to be revised. The wage scale would change to Davis Bacon wages and the bid documents would have to be revised to include federal contract provisions.

Gehlhausen stated that at this time the Boards need to decide if they want the removal letter to stand or if they want to get the grant process back in motion. EDA does not want to string the City along, but at this moment this is the timeline that EDA is working with.

A **motion** was made by Alex Emmons and seconded by Dave Hurst to withdraw the removal letter and carry forward the original grant application with EDA. Motion carried 6-0.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council Member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council Member Dave Prechtel to withdraw the removal letter and carry forward the original grant application with EDA. Motion carried 6-0.

A **motion** was made by Rick Stradtner and seconded by Doug Schulte to approve the additional \$16,000 for engineering fees, contingent upon receiving the grant. Motion carried 6-0.

A **motion** was made by Alex Emmons and seconded by Keith Masterson to legally and procedurally take care of the bidding process related to the pending grant. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment by Utility Service Board. There being no further business to come before the Utility Service Board, a **motion** was made by Alex Emmons and seconded by Rick Stradtner to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Adjournment by Council. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council Member Greg Schnarr to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved by the Common Council ____ with X without corrections or clarification this 20th day of March, 2013.

Attest:

Mayor Terry Seitz

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer

The minutes were hereby approved by the Utility Service Board _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 18th day of March, 2013.

Attest:

Wayne Schuetter, Chairman

Doug Schulte, Secretary